

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 are allowed. Claims 7 and 9-11 have been rejected and claim 8 has been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 6 and 7 are herein amended. Claim 8 is canceled. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0009662 (Park et al.).

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have essentially incorporated the features of claim 8 into claim 7 to place claim 7 and the claims which depend therefrom in condition for allowance.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claim 7 under U.S.C. § 102(e) and that claim 7 is in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Wolf et al. (Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era, Vol. 1). Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,504,026 (Kung).

For at least the reason that claims 9, 10 and 11 depend from claim 7, which has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter, claims 9, 10 and 11 are submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 9, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that claims 9, 10 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael F. Morano
Reg. No. 44,952
Attorney for Applicant(s)

F. Chau & Associates, LLC
130 Woodbury Road
Woodbury, New York 11797
TEL: (516) 692-8888
FAX: (516) 692-8889